

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9627

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0534

ATTN: ARA/PAN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON RODRIGO GONZALEZ

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST, FOLLOWING IS BIO-GRAPHIC MATERIAL ON RODRIGO ("RORY") GONZALEZ JURADO: A CLOSE BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AND PERSONAL COMPANION OF CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT TORRIJOS, GONZALEZ HAS EMERGED AS A YOUNG MAN OF CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AND GROWING WEALTH. OPERATING LARGELY BEHIND THE SCENES, HE IS NEVERTHELESS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS TORRIJOS' CHIEF FINANCIAL ADVISOR AND PARTNER IN VARIOUS BUSINESS VENTURES. HE IS THE PRESIDENT OF EDITORA RENOVACION, THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED PUBLISHING HOUSE, AND HOLDS POSITIONS IN NUMEROUS OTHER ENTERPRISES. WHILE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING THE GENERAL'S CONFIDENCE -- AND REPUTEDLY FREQUENTLY ORGANIZING HIS DIVERSIONS -- GONZALEZ HAS NOT BEEN EXTENSIVELY IDENTIFIED WITH PURELY POLITICAL MATTERS. RATHER, HIS PRIMARY ROLE -- IN WHICH HE HAS SO FAR EXCELLED -- IS THAT OF TRUSTED INSIDER AND BUSINESS MANAGER. HE IS CONSIDERED BASICALLY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES.

A SHORT, BARREL-CHESTED MAN OF THIRTY-FIVE, GONZALEZ WAS BORN IN DAVID, CHIRIQUI PROVINC TO EDUARDO ("LALO") GONZALEZ JOVANE; A WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN AND RANCHER, AND LETICIA JURADO. HE HAS TWO BROTHERS, ALBERTO ("BETO")

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AND EDUARDO, JR. HIS PARENTS HAVE BEEN DIVORCED FOR

SOME TIME. GONZALEZ SPENT MUCH OF HIS YOUTH IN LOS ANGELES, WHERE HIS FATHER SERVED FOR MANY YEARS AS PANAMANIAN CONSUL. HE HAS A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS FROM NIAGARA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK. HIS ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT, SAID BY HIS FATHER TO BE BETTER THAN HIS SPANISH. GONZALEZ IS DIVORCED.
SAYRE

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